

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Big Brown Bat

Eptesicus fuscus

Rarity Rank: S1S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by G. L. Twiest

Identification:

- A large bat with soft, lax fur of about one half inch
- Coloring ranges from amber browns to grayish or yellowish browns
- Under parts are lighter and may be more pinkish or olive buff
- Ears are short, black and hairless

Habitat:

- Can be found in cities and other semi-open habitats and also wooded areas, especially deciduous forests
- Generally roosts in buildings in the summer as well as hollow trees, under bridges, attics, barns and sewers
- Prefers a cooler roosting site than many other bats

Food habits:

- Feeds on flying insects such as beetles
- Average distance traveled in order to forage is 1 to 2 km

Range:

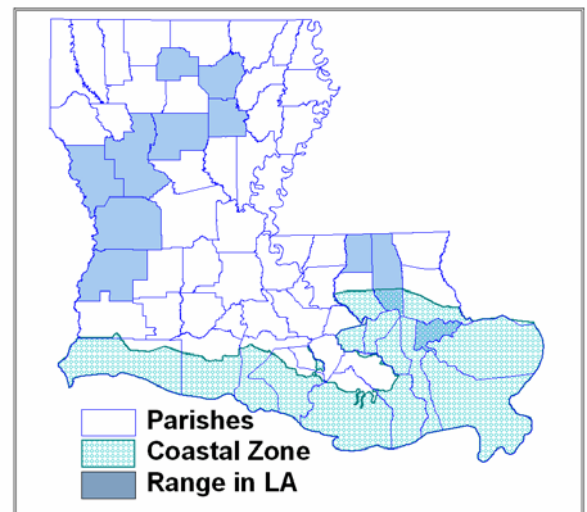
- Throughout the United States, and from southern Canada to British Columbia and south to Baja California
- Also found in most of Mexico and Central America to Panama, eastward to Florida and the Atlantic Coast

Reproduction:

- Mates throughout summer into fall
- Young are born May through July
- Litter size is usually 1 but sometimes 2
- Young are able to fly at 4 to 5 weeks
- A nursery colony is seldom more than a few 100 individuals

Threats:

- Lighting of roost areas
- Habitat reduction
- Human fear of bats resulting in bat mortality or roost destruction



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

Rare Animals of Louisiana



Beneficial Management Practices:

- Educate the public on general bat habits and beneficial behavior
- Maintain habitats where bats are known to reside

LA River Basins:

Pontchartrain, Calcasieu, Sabine, Red, Ouachita (known occurrences), generally found statewide



Photo by Dr. Paul Leberg

Big Brown Bat roosting under a bridge

References:

Lowery, Jr., George H. The Mammals of Louisiana and Its Adjacent Waters. Kingsport: Kingsport P, Inc., 1974. 110-113.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 20, 2007).